



A brief history of the California Light House

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Trump says U.S. is in 'armed conflict' with drug cartels after ordering strikes in the Caribbean

By **AAMER MADHANI** and **LISA MASCARO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has declared drug cartels to be unlawful combatants and says the United States is now in a "non-international armed conflict," according to a Trump administration memo obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday, following recent U.S. strikes on boats in the Caribbean.

Congress was notified about the designation by Pentagon officials on Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The memo, startling in scope, signals a potential new moment not just in the Trump administration's willingness to reach beyond the norms of presidential authority to wage war but in Trump's stated "America First" agenda.

It also raises stark questions about how far the White House intends to use its war powers and if Congress will exert its authority to ap-



President Donald Trump walks from Marine One after arriving on the South Lawn of the White House, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, in Washington.

prove or ban such military actions.

The move comes after the U.S. military last month carried out three deadly strikes against alleged drug-smuggling boats in the Caribbean. At least two of those operations were carried out on vessels that originated from Venezuela.

Those strikes followed up

a buildup of U.S. maritime forces in the Caribbean.

"Although friendly foreign nations have made significant efforts to combat these organizations, suffering significant losses of life, these groups are now transnational and conduct ongoing attacks throughout the Western Hemisphere as organized cartels," according

to the memo, which refers to cartel members as "unlawful combatants." "Therefore, the President determined these cartels are non-state armed groups, designated them as terrorist organizations, and determined that their actions constitute an armed attack against the United States."

Pentagon officials could not

Associated Press

provide a list of the designated terrorist organizations at the center of the conflict, a matter that was a major source of frustration for some of the lawmakers who were briefed, according to the person.

Lawmakers have been pressing Trump to go to Congress and seek war powers authority for such operations.

The White House and the Pentagon did not respond to requests for comment. Multiple defense officials reached Thursday appeared to be caught off guard by the determination and would not immediately comment or explain what the president's action could mean for the Pentagon or military operations going forward.

What the Trump administration laid out at the closed-door classified briefing was perceived by several senators as pursuing a new legal framework that raised questions particularly regarding the role of Congress in authorizing any such action, the person familiar with the matter said. □

FDA approves another generic abortion pill, prompting outrage from conservatives

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials have approved another generic version of the abortion pill mifepristone, a regulatory formality that quickly

triggered pushback from anti-abortion groups and politicians aligned with the Trump administration.

Drugmaker Evita Solutions announced on its website that the Food and Drug Administration signed off

on its low-cost form of the pill, which is approved to end pregnancies through 10 weeks.

Students for Life Action, which opposes abortion, in a statement Thursday called the approval "a stain on the Trump presidency and another sign that the deep state at the FDA must go."

Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri also criticized the move in a post on X, stating: "I have lost confidence in the leadership at FDA."

The criticism comes as Republican President Donald Trump's top health officials, including Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., face growing pressure from abortion opponents to reevaluate mifepristone, which was approved 25 years ago and has repeat-

edly been deemed safe and effective by FDA scientists.

In a letter to Republican attorneys general last month, Kennedy and FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary pledged to conduct a full review of the drug's safety. The FDA approved the original version of mifepristone in 2000 and gradually eased access over time. That included approving the first generic pill, from drugmaker GenBioPro, in 2019.

In 2021, the FDA under Democratic President Joe Biden permitted online prescribing and mail-order delivery of the drug, greatly expanding access. Abortion opponents have been fighting the change ever since.

Approval of generic drugs is typically a rote process

at the FDA, with multiple copycat versions usually approved after the patent on the original drug expires. In most cases, generic drugmakers only need to show that their drug matches the ingredients and formula developed by the original drugmaker.

The FDA typically approves such applications within 10 months. But filing documents posted to the FDA's website show that Evita Solutions filed its application to market mifepristone four years ago.

The company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

On its website, Evita states that it "believes that all people should have access to safe, affordable, high-quality, effective, and compassionate abortion care." □



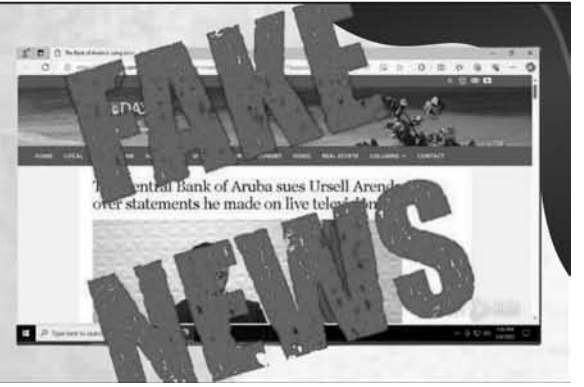
The Food and Drug Administration seal is seen at the Hubert Humphrey Building Auditorium in Washington, April 22, 2025.

Associated Press

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Federal government could resume taking DACA applications for permits to live and work in U.S.



People rally outside the Supreme Court in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), in Washington, Nov. 12, 2019.

Associated Press

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ**
Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The federal government is expected to again accept new applications for a program that grants some people without legal immigration status the ability to live and work in the United States.

Lawyers for the federal government and immigrant advocates have presented plans before a federal judge that would open the door again to accepting applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, otherwise known as DACA.

One state Texas, where the case is being heard however, would be exempted from providing work permits.

It's estimated that hundreds of thousands of people could be eligible to be enrolled in DACA, once a federal judge issues an or-

der to formalize plans laid out by the Department of Justice in a legal filing made on Monday. The program, created under the Obama administration, grants people without legal immigration status who were brought into the country by their parents two-year, renewable permits to live and work in the U.S. legally.

The program has allowed people who were brought to the United States as children to temporarily remain in the country and obtain work permits. It does not confer legal status but provides protection from deportation.

Eligibility requirements include people who entered the country as children before their 16th birthday, were under 31 years old as of June 15, 2012, and have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three misde-

meanors. There would be restrictions related to work permits for those who reside in Texas, which filed a lawsuit against the DACA program in 2018.

Nothing changes yet DOJ attorneys laid out the proposal before U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen on Monday as part of the ongoing Texas lawsuit. It would allow U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to take new and renewal applications for DACA across the country, which it has not done for four years. In Texas, USCIS would take new and renewal applications for the DACA program but recipients residing in the state will not receive a work permit.

Attorneys representing DACA recipients proposed adding a wind-down period that would allow Texas residents to keep their work authorization for one more renewal period. □



This photo provided by shipwreck salvage company 1715 Fleet - Queens Jewels, LLC shows Spanish coins the firm uncovered from a shipwreck off the Atlantic coast of Florida, 2025.

Associated Press

Excavators find \$1 million in gold coins from Spanish shipwreck along Florida's 'Treasure Coast'

By **KATE PAYNE**

Associated Press/Report for America

Hidden beneath the turquoise waters off a stretch of Florida known as the "Treasure Coast," a team of divers from a shipwreck salvage company have uncovered exactly that — a load of long-lost Spanish treasure they estimate is worth \$1 million.

More than 1,000 silver and gold coins thought to be minted in the Spanish colonies of Bolivia, Mexico and Peru were uncovered this summer off Florida's Atlantic coast, 1715 Fleet Queens Jewels LLC announced this week.

It's not the first time the site has yielded a trove of, well, treasure.

Centuries ago, a fleet of Spanish ships laden with gold, silver and jewels taken from the New World was sailing back to Spain when a hurricane wrecked the flotilla on July 31, 1715, spilling the treasures into the sea, according to the 1715 Fleet Society.

Over the years, millions of dollars in gold coins from the 1715 Fleet have been found by salvagers and treasure hunters in a coastal area stretching from Melbourne to Fort Pierce.

Dates and mint marks are still visible on some of the recently recovered coins, the salvage company said, a benefit for historians and collectors hoping to glean more from the lost treasure.

"This discovery is not only about the treasure itself, but the stories it tells," Sal Guttuso, director of operations for the salvage company said in a statement. "Each coin is a piece of history, a tangible link to the people who lived, worked, and sailed during the Golden Age of the Spanish Empire. Finding 1,000 of them in a single recovery is both rare and extraordinary." □

Former New York Gov. Cuomo apologizes to Jewish community for his COVID-19 response

By **ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE**
and **JAKE OFFENHARTZ**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrew Cuomo has apologized to New York City's Jewish community for his response to the COVID-19 pandemic when he was governor, a rare retreat on a signature campaign issue as he runs for mayor.

In a video that circulated online Wednesday, Cuomo said he was acting to "protect health and save lives" during the pandemic when he angered Orthodox communities by limiting the size of religious gatherings but did not "always fully consider the sensitivities and traditions that are so deeply important."

"We could have done better, and for that I am truly sorry. My intentions don't change the impact, and I sincerely ask for your understanding," Cuomo said in the video, which was timed to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The video was not posted to Cuomo's social media pages but spread on social media, and a copy was shared with The Associated Press. Cuomo's campaign did not immediately re-



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo attends a ceremony at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Aug. 3, 2020 at the World Trade Center in New York.

Associated Press

spond to requests for comment.

The apology is a departure from Cuomo on his response to the pandemic, which he has heralded as a prime example of his managerial competence as he tries to defeat Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani in November.

Courting Jewish voters has been a central part of Cu-

mo's campaign strategy. Mamdani, who would be the city's first Muslim mayor if elected, is a strong defender of Palestinian rights and has accused the Israeli government of committing genocide in Gaza. His stance has led to criticism from supporters of Israel and those who equate condemnations of Israeli policy to antisemitism.

Like many longtime New York officials, Cuomo has long boasted of his close ties to Orthodox Jewish communities.

But that relationship soured when he closed schools and limited attendance at houses of worship and other gatherings in an effort to stop COVID-19 from spreading, at a time when it was killing hundreds of

people a day in the state. Cuomo's "cluster initiative" brought further restrictions to neighborhoods experiencing high rates of the disease, including several densely populated Hasidic communities in Brooklyn and other places.

The move sparked outrage in the communities, triggering allegations of antisemitism, lawsuits and rowdy protests in which participants burned masks and, in one case, attacked a journalist. Several Orthodox leaders openly defied the restrictions, holding mass gatherings and taking bolt cutters to locked playgrounds.

"To the extent there are communities that are upset, that's because they haven't been following the original rules," Cuomo said at the time.

A lawsuit brought by some synagogues led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in late 2020 that struck down the capacity limits in houses of worship.

Cuomo is attempting a comeback from political exile after resigning as governor following a series of sexual harassment allegations, which he denies. □

Immigration judge denies Kilmar Abrego Garcia's bid for asylum, but he has 30 days to appeal

By **TRAVIS LOLLER**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A U.S. immigration judge has denied a bid for asylum from Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose case has become a proxy for the partisan power struggle over immigration policy.

The judge in Baltimore on Wednesday rejected an application to reopen Abrego Garcia's 2019 asylum case, but that is not the final word. Abrego Garcia has 30 days to appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

The Salvadoran national has an American wife and children and has lived in Maryland for years, but he immigrated to the United States illegally as a teenag-

er. In 2019, he was arrested by immigration agents. He requested asylum but was not eligible because he had been in the U.S. for more than a year. But the

judge ruled he could not be deported to El Salvador, where he faced danger from a gang that targeted his family.

He was mistakenly de-

ported to El Salvador by President Donald Trump's administration in March and was held in a notorious prison, and his case soon became a rallying point for those who oppose the Republican president's immigration crackdown. Facing a ruling from the Supreme Court, the administration returned him to the U.S. in June, only to immediately charge him with human smuggling. Abrego Garcia faces criminal charges in Tennessee, based on a 2022 traffic stop. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is also seeking to deport him to a third country, proposing Uganda first and then Eswatini, a small country in southern Africa where the king still holds

absolute power. His attorneys have denounced the criminal charges and the deportation efforts, saying they are an attempt to punish him for standing up to the administration.

Abrego Garcia's request to reopen his asylum case is a calculated risk. If approved, asylum could provide him with a green card and a path to citizenship. But if he loses, an immigration judge could remove his protection from being returned to his native country. That could place him back in the infamous Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT. It's where, he alleges in a lawsuit, he suffered severe beatings, sleep deprivation and psychological torture. □



Kilmar Abrego Garcia joins supporters in a protest rally outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in Baltimore, Aug. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

European positions on Russia harden as drone incidents, cyber-attacks and sabotage mount

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark
(AP) — Europe must take a

more aggressive approach with Russia by shooting down drones that enter European airspace and boarding shadow fleet ships illicitly transporting oil to deprive Moscow of war revenue, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday.

Speaking at a European summit in Copenhagen, Macron and other European leaders called for more sanctions against Russia notably targeting its energy sector and emphasized that Ukraine is on the front line in a widening hybrid war against Europe.

Indeed, the positions of some of Europe's leaders toward the continuing drone incidents, acts of sabotage, cyber-attacks and sanction-busting appear to have hardened over two days of talks in Copenhagen, including a closed session among them without phones or advisors. Macron urged the more than 40 leaders at the European Political Community summit to simply protect their interests without



Front from left, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen leave after a family photo during a meeting of the European Political Community (EPC) in Copenhagen, Denmark, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025.

Associated Press

signaling their intentions to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I think the main answer should be more unpredictability and more strategic ambiguity," he said.

"It's very important to have a clear message: drones which would violate our territories are just taking a big risk. They can be destroyed, full stop," he said. "We are not here to provide the full

notice. We will do what we have to do."

Macron pointed to a decision by French authorities to stop an oil tanker on the European Union's shadow fleet sanction list, and detain two of its crew, as an effective way to act. Naval experts believe the ship may have been involved in drone flights over Denmark. He said that Russia finances "30 to 40% of the war ef-

fort" via the shadow fleet. Macron said that by seizing the ships, for a week or two, "we completely break the efficiency of the organization. So the shadow fleet is a very good target if you want to improve our efficiency to reduce these capacities."

He said that the same ship was checked by Estonian authorities in March.

Danish Prime Minister Mette

Frederiksen, who hosted the summit days after a series of drone incidents at Denmark's airports and military bases, said: "It must be clear to everyone now, Russia will not stop until they are forced to do so."

Russia, she said, is "a threat not only to Ukraine but to all of us. Today, we have one major task ahead of us. We have to make our common Europe so strong that the war against us becomes unthinkable, and we have to do it now."

Frederiksen warned her partners that Europe "can no longer be naive. The war was never just about Ukraine. It is about Europe. All our nations, all our citizens, our values and our freedom."

After the meeting, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that "Putin should not underestimate our determination. There is truly a very strong unity and there is a very firm resolve to confront this aggression together and for that I am extremely grateful."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk urged the leaders to abandon any "illusions" they might have about Russia's intentions. □

Beijing's top diplomat in Hong Kong sets out four red lines for new U.S. Consul General

By KANIS LEUNG
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Beijing's top diplomat in Hong Kong met with the city's new U.S. Consul General this week to warn her against interfering in the territory's internal affairs, his office said in a statement Thursday.

Cui Jianchun, commissioner of the Hong Kong office of China's foreign ministry, met with U.S. top diplomat Julie Eadeh on Tuesday to express concerns about her conduct, the statement said.

Eadeh, who took up the new role in August, appeared to have angered Beijing for reportedly inviting pro-democracy figures

to events. Beijing's office overseeing Hong Kong affairs reposted articles from pro-Beijing media outlets that criticized her moves. Cui laid out "four don'ts" for Eadeh, asking her not to meet people she "shouldn't meet with," not to collude with "anti-China forces," not to assist or fund activities that might undermine the city's stability and not to interfere with national security cases in Hong Kong. Cui "urged Eadeh to abide by fundamental norms governing international relations including non-interference in domestic affairs and make a clean break with anti-China forces," the statement said.

The U.S. consulate has not

immediately commented.

The tough stance toward the new U.S. top diplomat underlines the ongoing tensions between Beijing and Washington over Hong Kong affairs, in addition to friction over trade, technology and Taiwan.

In the latest article reposted by Beijing's office on Hong Kong affairs on Saturday, Eadeh was described as a promoter of a "color revolution," a term referring to a mass protest movement.

It mentioned her meeting with pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law during massive anti-government protests in 2019, alleging the diplomat had close links to "black violence," a term used by

pro-Beijing media outlets and officials to refer to the protests.

Another article took issue with her inviting former

Hong Kong official Anson Chan and former Democratic Party chairwoman Emily Lau to her events. □



Cui Jianchun, Commissioner of China's Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong, meets with the press, in Hong Kong, on July 30, 2024.

Associated Press

Captain of oil tanker linked to Russia’s shadow fleet will face trial in France

By SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press
PARIS (AP) — The captain of an oil tanker immobilized off the country’s Atlantic coast which President Emmanuel Macron linked to Russia will go on trial in February over the crew’s alleged refusal to cooperate, a French prosecutor said Thursday.
Macron has alleged that the tanker belongs to Russia’s so-called shadow fleet of aging tankers of uncertain ownership that are avoiding Western sanctions over Moscow’s war in Ukraine and didn’t rule out that it could have been involved in drone flights over Denmark as it was sailing last week off the coast of the Nordic country.



The tanker Boracay that allegedly belongs to Russia's so-called shadow fleet, is seen Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, off Saint-Nazaire, France's Atlantic coast.

Asked about whether the tanker could be linked to drones flights, Macron said that “I’m very cautious because our services and our justice are still working I don’t exclude it at all, but I cannot here attribute very clearly and establish a clear link between these two phenomenon.”
Speaking at a European summit in Copenhagen,

Denmark, Macron said that the French navy faced “inappropriate and extremely aggressive behavior” towards the French frigate and helicopters that had been deployed to board the taker, which justified the opening of a judicial investigation. Stéphane Kellenberger, prosecutor of the western port city of Brest, said that two Chinese crew

members, the captain and the chief mate, who had been detained since Tuesday, were released from police custody. The chief mate has been released without charge.
A preliminary investigation was opened into the crew’s “refusal to cooperate” and “failure to justify the nationality of the vessel” after the Atlantic Maritime Prefect

alerted justice authorities Monday, Kellenberger said. The inquiry showed the captain couldn’t be directly considered responsible for the second offense, he added.
Kellenberger said that members of the French navy intervened and boarded the ship on Saturday off France’s Atlantic coast in line with interna-

tional law when there appeared to be a discrepancy between its apparent nationality and real nationality.
An investigation led by the French navy concluded that the ship, coming from Russia and heading to India with a “large oil shipment,” was flying no flag, he said. The captain was summoned for trial in Brest on Feb. 23. He faces up to one year in prison and a 150,000-euro (\$176,000) fine.
French military spokesman Col. Guillaume Vernet said that the ship was ordered to stay in place in a safe area. In comments earlier Thursday in Copenhagen, Macron praised the work of the French navy to “identify the presence of a shadow fleet.” “You kill the business model by detaining even for days or weeks these vessels and forcing them to organize themselves differently,” he said.
Macron said “30 to 40%” of Russia’s war effort is “financed through the revenues of the shadow fleet.” “It represents more than 30 billion euros. □

Myanmar’s military says it has recaptured a key central town from ethnic rebels

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar’s military has taken back control of a major district capital in Shan State



In this image released on Oct. 1, 2025 by the Myanmar Military, soldiers pose for a photo in front of the captured township administration office in Kyaukme, a town that the resistance forces had controlled for more than a year, in the northern part of Shan state.

more than a year after losing it to an armed ethnic minority rebel group, state media reported on Thursday.
The recapture of Kyaukme, about 115 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Mandalay, the country’s second-largest city, is the latest setback suffered by the ethnic militias fighting the army. Its fall could not be independently confirmed because the military does not allow journalists free access to the area, but the claim has not been challenged.
The military has stepped up activity in recent months, on the ground and with airstrikes, to retake areas controlled by the resistance ahead of elections it has promised to hold begin-

ning Dec. 28.
Kyaukme, which sits on a major highway trading route linking central Myanmar to China, had since August last year been under the control of the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, a member of the Three Brotherhood Alliance of ethnic armed groups.
A report in the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper said Kyaukme was completely captured by the army on Wednesday afternoon after a three-week operation to retake it. The report, which published photos of soldiers in key points of the town, said the military was working to restore the town’s administrative functions and ensure the safe return of

residents who had fled to avoid fighting.
The Ta’ang National Liberation Army did not immediately respond to requests from The Associated Press for comment, though on the Telegram messaging platform on Wednesday, it accused the military of attacking Kyaukme with airstrikes and heavy weapons, setting official buildings on fire and triggering fierce fighting in nearby villages.
The members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, which also include the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, or MNDAA, and the Arakan Army, have been fighting for decades for greater autonomy from Myanmar’s central government. □

Associated Press

A brief history of the California Light House



The California lighthouse at the Northern tip of Aruba in the Caribbean. The Ship "California" ran aground off this point, thus it's namesake. The vessel "California" was also involved in the disaster of the "Titanic".

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curaçao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to

Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 ki-

lometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curaçao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curaçao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the

height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon



of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

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Friends of Aruba lending a helping hand: “Handing-off the official trash bag to Mark”

(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today recently shared a heartwarming story about a group of long time visitors who dedicate their time to keeping our beaches clean. Bob Zimmerman and a few of his friends took it upon themselves to help properly dispose trash around the Hooiberg Hill. Since then, it became a ritual of them to meet up for four weeks every year and collect trash all over Eagle Beach—with new volunteers willing to join in on their good cause each year.

Since leaving the island, Bob Zimmerman has

handed off the official trash bag to our friend Mark, another visitor who recently arrived on the island and will keep up the good work.

Mark and Bob met 15 to 20 years ago on the sandy white beaches of Eagle Beach while Bob was having his yearly tradition of trash collecting around the area. As Bob would tell us, Mark and his wife have been collecting trash around Eagle Beach for 30 years. This year, they're back for a whole month and will pick up where Bob and his wife left off. Thank you Mark for taking care of our tiny home! □

Iberostar in Aruba Hosts a Job Fair with On-the-Spot Hiring Opportunities: Set, Ready & Hired!

Oranjestad, Aruba—Iberostar Hotels & Resorts, comprised of JOIA Aruba by Iberostar and Tierra del Sol Golf Course by Iberostar, is excited to announce its upcoming Job Fair taking place on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at JOIA Aruba by Iberostar, located on Eagle Beach.

This unique hiring event offers candidates the opportunity to get hired on the spot, with many open positions across multiple departments. Iberostar is looking for passionate and talented professionals eager to build a career in the hospitality industry.

The departments with open positions at JOIA Aruba by Iberostar and Tierra del Sol Golf Course by Iberostar are: Food & Beverage (server, hostess, restaurant supervisor, sommelier, barista); Kitchen (pastry supervisor, restaurant chef, cook 1, cook 2, pastry cook, butcher, chef d'partie, steward); Front Office (front of the house supervisor,

agent & runner, concierge); House-keeping (room attendants, public area attendants, houseperson); Spa (spa therapist); Tierra del Sol Golf Course by Iberostar: Spa receptionist, all around server, & beverage cart attendant.

The Job Fair will have three main areas: “Ready, Set & Hired.”

The “Ready” area – located at the entrance in the Foyer, where applicants can visit different booths, meet the department representatives, and receive information about the available positions.

For those that are interested and brought all the necessary documents, the next step will be the Ballroom – the “Set” area, where Iberostar department managers will conduct interviews.

For applicants who meet all requirements and successfully complete their interview, they will have the opportunity to move on to the “Hired” area – where the Human Resources team will welcome them to complete the job offer and employment agreement.

The full process may take about one hour, and qualified candidates may leave with an official job offer the same day. Applicants are encouraged to come prepared and professional, bringing:

- An updated resume
- A valid ID (Passport, driver's license or identification card)



- A valid work permit (if applicable)
- A valid health card (green card) for Food & Beverage & Butler positions
- Minimum of two contact for references

The company is committed to fostering talent, creating value through local job generation, and prioritizing the well-being of its people: “At Iberostar, we believe in hiring people who are passionate about hospitality and proud to represent Aruba's unique charm”, said Suzette Bareño, Director of Human Resources at Iberostar in Aruba. “This Job Fair is not only about finding talent; it's about creating opportunities for our community to grow with us”.

Why Join Iberostar

With over 70 years of experience in tourism and presence in 13 countries, Iberostar Hotels & Resorts is a global hospitality company with 100 hotels, operating over 32,000 rooms worldwide, and more than 35,000 employees of 95 nationalities.

Iberostar is committed to caring for the people who are part of the company's family and works to build an inclusive, equitable, and enriching workplace where everyone feels part of a common purpose. The core principles - Responsibility, Transparency, Humility, Passion, and Creativity - guide its activity and ensure that both guests and employees experience the very best of hospitality.

Employees also benefit from a strong culture of care and well-being. Health and wellness initiatives, team-building activities, and a safe, inclusive workplace ensure that every member of the Iberostar family can thrive both personally and professionally.

Through its Iberostar Wave of Change movement, the company drives a sustainable model of tourism. From protecting oceans to building resilient destinations and supporting local communities, Iberostar believes tourism should be a positive force that creates prosperity while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Event Details

- Location: JOIA Aruba by Iberostar – Eagle Beach
- Date: Thursday, October 9, 2025
- Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

For more information on the Job Fair, please follow Iberostar Careers Aruba on Facebook and Instagram. □



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Ombudsman of Aruba Marks One Year Since Appointment

Wednesday October 1st marked one year since Ms. Jurima Bryson was sworn in as the first Ombudsman of Aruba. Over the past year, significant groundwork has been laid to build a solid foundation for delivering effective and trustworthy services to the community.

Ms. Bryson, who has led this process as Aruba's first Ombudsman, reflects on the journey:

"Over the past year, our team has worked diligently to establish the Bureau Ombudsman, develop essential procedures, and build lasting relationships with colleagues and institutions. Our goal is to offer the people of Aruba a professional and reliable service. In the coming weeks, we will finalize the remaining details and are proud to announce that the Bureau Ombudsman will officially open its doors to the public on December 1, 2025."

With this opening, Aruba and its visitors will gain an independent and

impartial institution where you can submit complaints, seek advice, and request information. The Bureau is entering its final phase of establishment and will address complaints related to:

- Administrative bodies
- Public legal entities
- State-owned enterprises
- Private organizations performing public interest tasks and receiving public funds
- Private entities responsible for services to children and youth (up to 17 years old) in areas such as education, youth assistance, childcare, and healthcare
- As well as all these entities current and former employees.

What is the role of the Ombudsman?

In a nutshell, the Ombudsman is the middle man between you and government or semi-government agencies. This means that as a local or as a visitor of Aruba, you can file a complaint to the bureau of the Ombudsman against government

and semi-government agencies.

Already left the island? No problem. The Ombudsman of Aruba can still receive and handle your complaint even from abroad. You only have to provide a way for them to reach you.

Because this is the first time Aruba has an Ombudsman, the bureau of office is still not in operation, but Ombudsman Bryson assured that the office will be open sometime in the second half of the year. In the mean time, you can follow the bureau on Instagram and Facebook. "We provide almost daily information so they can understand the role of the Ombudsman, what she can do for them and which kinds of complaints they can submit."

The Bureau Ombudsman is committed to being accessible to everyone. Complaints will be assessed based on the standards of proper conduct, published in April 2025.



Ms. Bryson extends her heartfelt gratitude to the public for their patience and support throughout the past year. Stay informed by following Bureau Ombudsman Aruba on social media:

Facebook: Ombudsman Aruba
Instagram: @ombudsmanaruba
LinkedIn: Ombudsman Aruba



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

ORANJESTAD—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Live-stock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most



common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in

Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks be-

tween the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there



are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within

this area includes the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved

for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much

like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas.

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger



Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger

retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

CROSSWORD

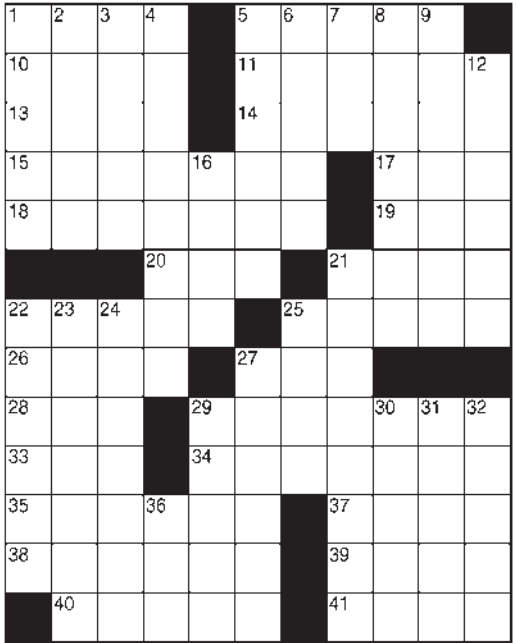
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 39 Lake near Buffalo
- 1 Guinness of "Star Wars"
- 5 From Havana, say
- 10 Fancy auto
- 11 Sung dramas
- 13 Molecule part
- 14 Morphine, for one
- 15 Constantly changing
- 17 Sewing aid
- 18 Like amphitheaters
- 19 Director DuVernay
- 20 Mo. hours
- 21 Atkins of country music
- 22 Secret supply
- 25 Selected
- 26 Dull pain
- 27 That woman
- 28 Sgt., e.g.
- 29 Least decorated
- 33 Gumshoe
- 34 Capsize
- 35 Choice
- 37 Cap for de Gaulle
- 38 Go hungry

DOWN

- 1 San Antonio mission
- 2 Illuminated
- 3 Ham it up
- 4 Southwestern people
- 5 "Settle down!"
- 6 Top
- 7 "— Mir Bist Du Schön"
- 8 Plains people
- 9 Indigenous group
- 12 Capitol group
- 16 Headquarters
- 21 Southeastern people
- 22 Epic poem
- 23 Believes
- 24 Southeastern people
- 25 Bloke
- 27 Small piano
- 29 Kitchen appliance
- 30 Tennis star
- 31 Old photo tint
- 32 Attempts
- 36 Fury



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

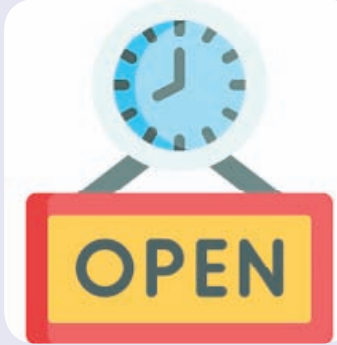
Z NQFQFTQN ZL OW YVLYTQN
POBW ONQ OIOBW NQFQFTQNQP,
VIYEPIQWW, FOJIQ-AIOHYNQP,
LGQ OZN SYIP OMP WY VIQOM
ZL UEZHQNW. — IQZA QMSQN
Cryptoquote: NEVER JUMP IN A PILE
OF LEAVES WITH A WET SUCKER. — LINUS, "IT'S
THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN"

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 01 - 12 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
WED	01	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	05	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	07	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	08	GRAND PRINCESS RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 06.00	18.00 23.00 ****	B C E	1 1 1
THU	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
SUN	12	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



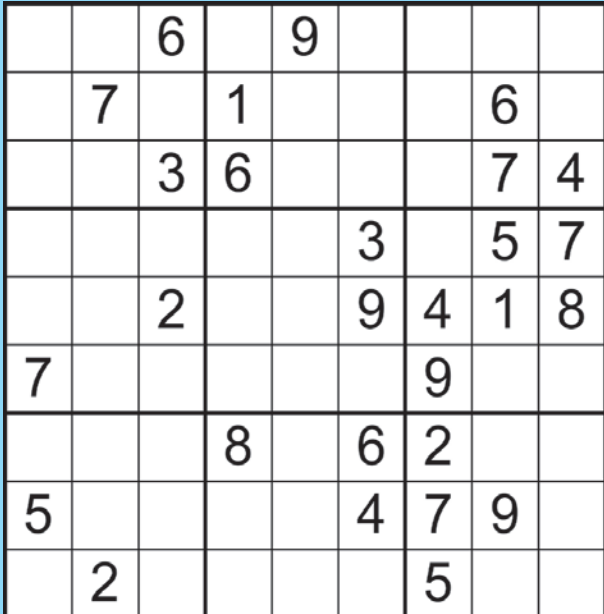
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/3

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	9	6	2	3	8	5	1
6	1	8	9	7	5	4	3	2
3	5	2	8	1	4	6	9	7
1	4	6	7	8	9	3	2	5
8	2	3	5	4	1	7	6	9
7	9	5	2	3	6	1	8	4
2	6	7	4	5	8	9	1	3
9	3	4	1	6	2	5	7	8
5	8	1	3	9	7	2	4	6

Difficulty: ★★★

10/2

New study adds to the possibility of favorable conditions for life at Saturn's moon Enceladus



In this image provided by NASA, NASA's Cassini spacecraft captured this image of Enceladus on Nov. 30, 2010, with the shadow of the body of Enceladus on the lower portions of the jets is clearly visible.

Associated Press

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Scientists have uncovered new types of organics in icy geysers spouting from Saturn's moon Enceladus, bolstering the likelihood that the ocean world may harbor conditions suitable for life.

Their findings, reported Wednesday, are based on observations made by NASA's Cassini spacecraft in 2008 during a close and fast flyby of Enceladus. The small moon, one of 274 orbiting Saturn, has long been considered a prime candidate in the search for life beyond Earth because of its hidden ocean and plumes of water erupting from cracks near its south pole.

While Enceladus may be habitable, no one is suggesting that life exists.

"Being habitable and being inhabited are two very different things. We believe that Enceladus is habitable, but we do not know if life is indeed present," said the University of Washington's Fabian Klenner, who took part in the study. An international team decided to launch a fresh analysis of tiny grains of ice encountered as Cassini flew through the moon's geysers. The grains were young compared with the much older geyser particles that ended up in one of Saturn's outermost rings.

These new grains collided with Cassini's cosmic dust analyzer at 40,000 mph (64,800 kph), faster than the old ones. The increased speed provided a clearer view of the chemical compounds present, the scientists noted. □

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Eagle: Tel.587 9011

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Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
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EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
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FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

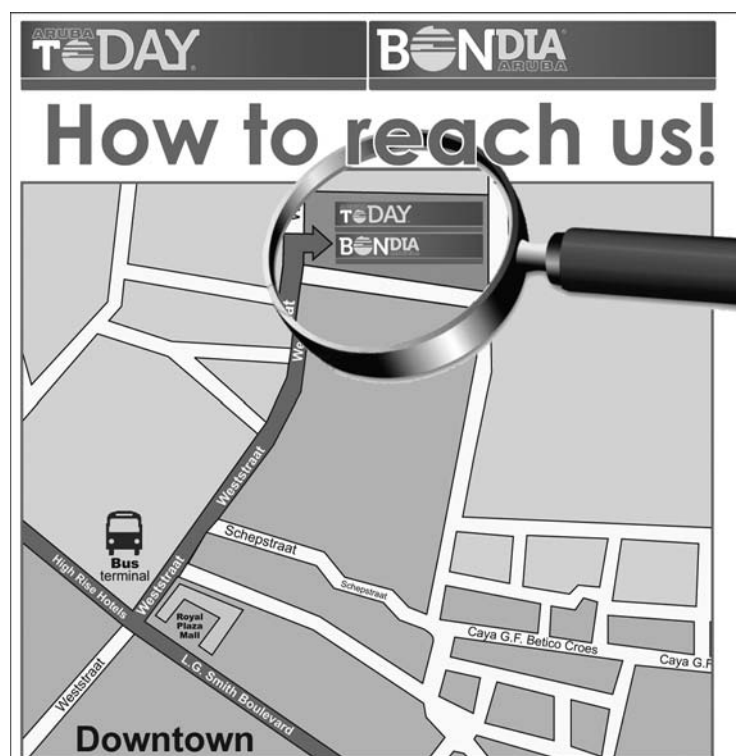
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



OpenAI now worth \$500 billion, possibly making it the world's most valuable startup

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

OpenAI could now be the world's most valuable startup, ahead of Elon Musk's SpaceX and TikTok's parent company ByteDance, after a secondary stock sale designed to retain employees at the ChatGPT maker. Current and former OpenAI employees sold \$6.6 billion in shares to a group of investors, pushing the privately held artificial intelligence company's valuation to \$500 billion, according to a source with knowledge of the deal who was not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The investors buying the shares included Thrive Capital, Dragoneer Investment Group and T. Rowe Price, along with Japanese tech giant SoftBank and the United Arab Emirates' MGX, the source said Thursday. The valuation reflects high expectations for the future of AI technology and continues OpenAI's remarkable trajectory from its start as a nonprofit research lab in 2015.

But with the San Francisco-based company not yet turning a profit, it could also amplify concerns about an AI bubble if the generative AI products made by OpenAI and its competitors don't meet the expectations of investors pouring



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen with random binary data, March 9, 2023, in Boston.

billions of dollars into research and development. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has sought to dismiss those concerns, most recently last week, when he toured a massive data center complex being built to run the company's AI systems in Abilene, Texas.

"Between the ten years we've already been operating and the many decades ahead of us, there will be booms and busts," Altman said after being asked about a bubble. "People will overinvest and lose money, and underin-

vest and lose a lot of revenue."

He added that "we'll make some dumb capital allocations" and there will be short-term ups and downs but that "over the arc that we have to plan over, we are confident that this technology will drive a new wave of unprecedented economic growth," along with scientific breakthroughs, improvements to quality of life and "new ways to express creativity." Just this week, the company launched two different business ventures, one

a partnership with Etsy and Shopify for online shopping through ChatGPT and another a social media app, Sora, for generating and sharing AI videos.

OpenAI has been struggling to offer investors and staff the same perks and compensation as the publicly traded tech giants with which it competes. Facebook parent Meta Platforms, in particular, has been on a hiring spree for elite AI engineers and in June made a \$14.3 billion investment in AI company Scale that recruited its CEO

Alexandr Wang.

OpenAI's for-profit subsidiary, valued at \$500 billion, is technically controlled by the board of OpenAI's nonprofit and both are still bound to pursue the nonprofit's charitable purpose. OpenAI's partnerships with major companies and its plans to change its corporate structure have drawn the scrutiny of regulators, including the attorneys general of California and Delaware, who oversee charitable organizations that operate or are incorporated in their states.

The company has made big deals in recent weeks with Oracle and SoftBank, its partners on a data center venture called Stargate, and with chipmaker Nvidia, which makes the specialized AI chips those data centers need. At the same time, it has lessened its reliance on longtime backer Microsoft.

In September, OpenAI announced it had reached a tentative agreement with Microsoft about the future stake of its nonprofit in its for-profit corporation but released few details.

It also opened applications for nonprofits to apply for \$50 million in funding from OpenAI, an effort it launched in response to the recommendations of an advisory board. □

Associated Press

FTC sues Zillow and Redfin over deal it accuses of suppressing competition in rental ads



This March 16, 2015 photo shows a "now leasing" sign outside an apartment complex near Millville, N.J.

Associated Press

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is suing Zillow and Redfin, accusing the real estate companies of entering what the regulator says is an illegal deal to suppress competition in online rental advertising. In a lawsuit filed on Tuesday, the FTC alleges that this agreement started in February when Zillow paid Redfin \$100 million.

In exchange for that and other compensation, the commission said, Redfin agreed to end contracts with advertising partners, stop competing ads for multifamily properties for up to nine years and serve as a syndicator of Zillow listings on its own sites. Redfin also fired hundreds of employees shortly after the announcement of this

plan, Tuesday's complaint notes, alleging that the company also helped Zillow hire "its pick" of these workers.

"Zillow paid millions of dollars to eliminate Redfin as an independent competitor in an already concentrated advertising market one that's critical for renters, property managers, and the health of the overall U.S. housing market," Daniel Guarnera, director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition, said in a statement Tuesday.

Guarnera added that Zillow and Redfin's actions were a violation of federal anti-trust laws. The Commission argues that the companies' "unlawful scheme" maybe reduce incentives for further competition, and could lead to higher prices and fewer choices for multifamily rental advertising customers. □

FCS playoffs are a financial drain for most of the 24 teams. Could private equity change that?

By **ERIC OLSON**

AP College Football Writer
Montana State made it all the way to the championship game of the FCS playoffs last season and the school lost tens of thousands of dollars in the process.

In fact, officials say, most of the 24 teams that go to the playoffs lose money or break even.

That's just wrong, Big Sky Conference Commissioner Tom Wistrick said, and it is among the reasons Football Championship Subdivision commissioners are exploring a proposal from a private equity firm that could turn the FCS playoffs into a money-maker for the schools. "I'm very open to the suggestion because it's a new day and we have to figure out new ways to generate revenue," Wistrick told The Associated Press. "We're sharing revenue with our student-athletes now, so that leads us to a place where we've got to find new revenue streams. It doesn't mean it's going to happen, it doesn't mean I'll be in favor of it when it's all said and done, but these are the types of discussion we have to be having."

Leaders of Sequence Equity gave a presentation to FCS commissioners in Chi-



North Dakota State quarterback Cam Miller runs with the ball against Montana State during the first half of the FCS Championship NCAA college football game, Jan. 6, 2025, in Frisco, Texas.

Associated Press

cago last week. Sequence Equity co-founders Marcus Stroud and Brandon Allen, reached by phone, declined to discuss details of their proposal and said commissioners would take the lead in discussions with the NCAA, which also declined to comment.

Stroud played football at the FCS level, at Princeton, and his father, also named Marcus, played in the NFL in the 1990s. He said his firm and the commissioners are in early discussions. "Every-

thing is educational right now," he said.

Describing the proposal, Wistrick said the FCS conferences would be the majority owners of the playoffs and Sequence Equity would hold a minority stake. According to Hero Sports, which first reported the proposal, Sequence would offer tens of millions of dollars in investment and take over the operation of the playoffs. Sequence Equity gave the commissioners a projected annual

revenue figure, but Wistrick declined to make it public. Playoff revenue would be directed to the FCS conferences to split among schools similar to how the Bowl Subdivision's College Football Playoff directs proceeds, Wistrick said. The CFP and bowl games do not operate under the NCAA's purview.

Current NCAA rules require member schools to participate in NCAA-sponsored championships if they are selected. To take the FCS

playoffs from an NCAA-administered championship to private enterprise, the FCS Oversight Committee would have to make a recommendation to the NCAA Administrative Committee. That committee would make a decision, but the Division I Board of Directors would have veto power.

Another obstacle could be the NCAA's television contract with ESPN. The FCS playoffs are included in a contract running through 2032 that pays the NCAA \$115 million annually to televise championships in 40 sports.

North Dakota State's 35-32 win over Montana State in the 2024-25 championship game on Jan. 6 averaged 2.4 million viewers and was the second-most-watched FCS title game on ESPN. Viewership peaked at 3.1 million viewers. The overall average viewership for all FCS playoff games was 1.3 million across ESPN platforms, most since 2009-10. Montana State's bottom line for the playoffs was a \$40,000 loss. The Bobcats hosted three playoff games and were required to guarantee the NCAA 85% of the revenue, according to figures provided by the school. □

Caitlin Clark says Collier made valid points and Commissioner Engelbert hasn't contacted her

By **MICHAEL MAROT**

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Caitlin Clark said Thursday that WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert hasn't reached out to her in the aftermath of Napheesa Collier's statement about an alleged private conversation in which the league's leader made comments about Clark. The Indiana Fever guard spoke publicly for the first time since the league's All-Star Game in July. Clark said Minnesota Lynx star Collier made valid points in her lengthy statement that criticized league officials, particularly Engelbert, for what Collier portrayed as a lack of accountability and care for WNBA players. Collier said Tuesday that Engelbert told her in a private conversation Clark and other players "should be on their knees" in gratitude for the platform the league has given them. Collier said the commissioner

singled out Clark's endorsement deals, saying she wouldn't have them if not for the WNBA. Engelbert released a statement a few hours later in which she said she has the "utmost respect" for Collier but was "disheartened" by how her conversations had been characterized.

When Clark was asked if she had heard Collier's story before this week, Clark responded "No." When asked if she had spoken with Engelbert since the reports came out, Clark again responded "No." Clark missed the entire second half of the season with a right groin injury that was compounded by what she called the worst sprained ankle of her career. She also said she's still not 100% healthy and hopes she can start playing five-on-five basketball again sometime in late October and that her top priority at the moment would be working with USA Basketball. □



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark signs autographs before Game 3 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinals series against the Las Vegas Aces, Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

Roger Craig, Ken Anderson advance for Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2026

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Versatile running back Roger Craig, former MVP Ken Anderson and special teams standout Steve Tasker are among the 52 players who advanced to the next stage for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 in the seniors category.

The seniors screening committee reduced the list down from 162 original nominees of players who last could have appeared in a professional football game in the 2000 season.

A blue-ribbon committee will cut down the list in three more stages until there are three finalists who will advance to voting conducted before the Super Bowl in February.

The nominees include three players who were finalists the past two years but didn't get in, with linebacker Maxie Baughan and offensive lineman Jim Tyrer looking to be finalists for the second straight year and receiver Art Powell looking



San Francisco 49ers Roger Craig (33) heads for the end zone and first quarter touchdown during an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Raiders at the Coliseum in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 22, 1985.
Associated Press

to get back to this stage after reaching it in 2024.

Anderson was a four-time Pro Bowler for Cincinnati and won the MVP in 1981 when he helped the Bengals reach their first Super Bowl before losing to San Francisco. When Anderson

retired after the 1986 season he ranked sixth all time with 32,838 yards passing and 13th with 197 TD passes.

Craig was a key part of San Francisco's dynasty in the 1980s with his ability as a physical runner and as a

receiver out of the backfield. Craig was the first player ever to have 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving in the same season in 1985, and led the NFL with 2,036 yards from scrimmage in 1988 when he helped the 49ers win the

Super Bowl.

Craig was also part of the title-winning teams in San Francisco in the 1984 and 1989 seasons. His 410 yards from scrimmage in those Super Bowl wins are the third-most ever behind only Hall of Famers Jerry Rice and Franco Harris.

Tasker was widely considered to be one of the best special teams players ever, excelling on coverage of punts and kicks and recording seven blocked kicks and catching nine TD passes as a receiver on offense. Tasker helped Buffalo win four straight AFC title games before losing in the Super Bowl and made seven Pro Bowls in his 13-year career.

The nominees

Quarterbacks: Ken Anderson, Charlie Conerly, Roman Gabriel, Jack Kemp, Don Meredith.

Running backs: Ottis Anderson, Larry Brown, Roger Craig, Chuck Foreman, Cecil Isbell, Paul "Tank" Younger.□

NFL to launch professional flag football leagues ahead of 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

By **KEN MAGUIRE**
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — The NFL plans to launch women's and men's professional flag football leagues "in the next couple of years," Commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday. The timeline outlined by

Goodell at a sports conference in London would see the leagues created ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, which will feature flag football for the first time.

"We're committed to creating a women's professional league, and a men's

professional flag league. We've had a great deal of interest in that and I expect that we'll be able to do that, launch that, in the next couple of years," Goodell said at the Leaders in Sport conference at Twickenham Stadium.

The league has prioritized flag football as a way to attract young fans, both male and female.

"The demand is there. We're seeing colleges in the states and universities internationally also that want to make it a part of their program," Goodell said.

"If you set that structure up where there's youth leagues, going into high school, into college and then professional, I think you can develop a system of scale.

That's an important infrastructure that we need to

create."

Mexico City in 2026

Mexico City has been off the NFL's rotation of hosts for international games while Azteca Stadium was under renovations ahead of the 2026 World Cup. It's back in the picture now, though.

"We'll be back in Mexico City next year, which we're thrilled about," Goodell said.

The league is playing a record-high seven games internationally this season six of them in Europe. Brazil hosted one game.

Goodell reiterated the league's plan to increase the number of games abroad to 16, and again stated that Asia will be the next region.

Australia has already been announced for a game next season.

"If you're going to be glob-

al, you have to do it beyond Europe, beyond the Americas," he said. "You need to reach into other areas and territories, and next year we're going to Australia. We have plans to go to Asia shortly thereafter."

League officials declined to comment on where in Asia they're considering.

Football and sports 'bring communities together'

Goodell said football can be a unifying force.

"We read about different issues and we see the different things that go on in politics and otherwise ... and unfortunately negative things like war," he said.

"Again, I think football and sports in general I do think bring communities together.

That's a positive thing that we need a little more of."□



Augustana University and Concordia University, St. Paul players compete during a women's college flag football game, April 7, 2025, in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press